



The Effect of a Hip Strengthening Program on Mechanics during Running and Single Leg Squatting

Journal:	<i>Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy</i>
Manuscript ID:	05-10-3470-RR.R1
Manuscript Categories:	Research Report
Key Words:	Biomechanics/lower extremity, Hip, Knee, Running

SCHOLARONE™
Manuscripts

Copy

1

1 The Effect of a Hip Strengthening Program on Mechanics during Running and during a
2 Single Leg Squatting

3

4 Richard W. Willy, PT, MPT, OCS¹
5 Irene S. Davis, PT, PH.D., FAPTA²

6

7 ¹Doctoral Student, Biomechanics and Movement Science Program, University of
8 Delaware, Newark, DE.

9 ²Professor, Department of Physical Therapy, University of Delaware, Newark, DE;
10 Drayer Physical Therapy Institute, Hummelstown, PA.

11

12 Support: Foundation for Physical Therapy Promotion of Doctoral Studies I, Drayer
13 Physical Therapy Institute, DOD W911NF-05-1-0097, NIH 1 S10 RR022396

14

15 The protocol for this study was approved by The University of Delaware Human
16 Subjects Compliance Committee.

17

18 Address correspondence to Richard Willy, Department of Physical Therapy, 301
19 McKinly Laboratory, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716. E-mail:
20 rwilly@udel.edu

21

22

2

1 The Effect of a Hip Strengthening Program on Mechanics during Running and Single
2 Leg Squatting

3

4 The authors do not have any conflicts of interest.

Review Copy

ABSTRACT**Study Design: Block randomized controlled trial**

Objectives: To investigate whether a hip strengthening program alters hip mechanics during running and during a single leg squat.

Background: Abnormal movement patterns during running and single leg squatting have been associated with a number of running related injuries in females. Therapeutic interventions for these aberrant movement patterns typically include hip strengthening. While these strengthening programs have been shown to improve symptoms, it is unknown if the underlying mechanics during functional movements are altered.

Methods: Twenty healthy females with excessive hip adduction during running, **determined by an instrumented gait analysis**, were recruited. Subjects were matched based on age and running mileage to either a strength training group or a control group. The strength training group underwent a 3x/week, 6-week hip strengthening program that included training in single leg squatting. **The control group did not receive an intervention, but maintained their current running mileage.** Using a **hand held dynamometer and standard motion capture procedures**, hip strength, running and single leg squat mechanics were compared before and after the strengthening program.

Results: While hip abductor and external rotation strength increased significantly ($p < 0.005$) in the strength training group, there were no significant changes in hip or

4

1 knee mechanics during running. However, during the single leg squat, hip adduction,
2 hip internal rotation, and contralateral pelvic drop all decreased significantly ($p=0.006$,
3 $p=0.006$, $p=0.02$, respectively). The control group exhibited no changes in hip strength,
4 nor in the single leg squat or running mechanics at the conclusion of the six week study.

5
6 **Conclusion:** Hip strengthening that included single leg stance training did not alter
7 running mechanics, but did improve single leg squat mechanics. These results suggest
8 that hip strengthening and neuromuscular reeducation that is not specific to running
9 does not alter abnormal running mechanics.

10 **Level of Evidence:** Therapy, Level 2a

11
12 **Key Words:** *biomechanics/lower extremity, hip, knee, running*

1 INTRODUCTION

2 **Abnormal hip and knee mechanics have been associated with a number of running-**
3 **related injuries.**^{11,27,29,32,33,34,35,38,39,40,41} These injuries include tibial stress fractures,³²
4 iliotibial band syndrome²⁹ and patellofemoral pain syndrome.^{11,27,33,34,35,38,39,40,41} In
5 particular, patellofemoral pain syndrome (PFPS) has been linked with excessive hip
6 adduction,^{11,41} hip internal rotation,^{11,38,39,40} contralateral pelvic drop,^{11,41} and knee
7 external rotation⁴¹ during running. These excessive movements have also been
8 identified during a single leg squat,⁴¹ single leg jump landing,^{4,38,41} and step down
9 maneuvers in females with PFPS.³⁸ This movement pattern is thought to increase frontal
10 plane loading of the knee and the dynamic quadriceps angle, resulting in lateral tracking
11 of the patella and abnormal loading of the patellofemoral joint.^{7,18,23,27,33,35}

12 Several studies suggest that females with PFPS demonstrate weakness of the
13 musculature that control hip adduction, hip internal rotation, contralateral pelvic drop
14 and knee external rotation.^{5,6,8,19,39} Thus, hip strengthening is often advocated to
15 improve hip mechanics²⁶ with the hope of reducing the incidence of or symptoms
16 related to PFPS.^{5,15,19,27,28} It has been shown that these programs improve strength^{3,24,28}
17 and reduce or may prevent symptoms.^{3,15,22,24,28} However, it is not clear whether
18 strengthening the hip actually results in a change in abnormal hip and knee mechanics
19 during functional **activities such as running and squatting.**

20 Only one study has examined the effect of hip strengthening on normal running
21 kinematics in healthy individuals. Snyder et al. (2008) examined the effects of
22 strengthening the hip abductors and external rotators on hip and knee mechanics in

6

1 healthy, active females.³⁷ Aside from a small *increase* in hip adduction excursion, no
2 changes in hip and knee kinematics were noted. However, it should be noted that their
3 study did not focus on individuals with abnormal mechanics. Thus, the potential for
4 changes in mechanics may have been limited.

5
6 To date, only one study has examined the effects of hip strengthening in individuals with
7 abnormal lower extremity mechanics. Mascal et al., (2003) reported on a case study
8 involving a female with anterior knee pain.²⁴ This subject demonstrated excessive hip
9 adduction, internal rotation and contralateral pelvic drop during a stepdown maneuver.
10 These hip motions were significantly reduced during a stepdown maneuver following a
11 16-week strengthening program.²⁴ These results suggest that strengthening may
12 improve movement patterns in individuals who present with abnormal mechanics, as
13 they have a greater propensity for change. However, these results need to be further
14 validated with studies involving additional subjects and examining more dynamic
15 activities such as running.

16
17 Therefore, the purpose of this study was to examine the effect of a hip strengthening
18 program on hip and knee mechanics during running and squatting in females who exhibit
19 abnormal mechanics during running. **It was hypothesized that peak hip adduction,
20 hip internal rotation, contralateral pelvic drop, and knee external rotation during
21 running and during a single leg squat would be reduced as a result of the hip
22 strengthening program.** Due to the lack of strength training stimuli, we expected no
23 changes in hip or knee kinematics in the control group.

7

1

2

3 METHODS

4 An *a priori* power analysis was conducted using an effect size of 1.00 ($\alpha=0.05$, $\beta=0.20$)

5 to determine the sample size of the study. An effect size of 1.00 was chosen as it

6 conservatively represents a large effect.⁹ Pilot data from 20 uninjured females (group

7 mean peak HADD during running=18.4°, sd=4.3) were utilized for the power analysis.

8 Peak HADD during running was chosen for the power analysis as this variable has

9 previously been shown to be associated with females with PFPS in our previous studies

10 and with other lower extremity injuries in runners.^{11,29,32,41} We found that a minimum of 9

11 subjects per group were required to adequately power this investigation. To account for

12 a 10% drop out rate, we chose to recruit 10 subjects per group.

13

14 Prior to participation, all subjects signed an informed consent that was approved by the

15 University of Delaware Human Subjects Research Board. To be included, subjects had

16 to be female, between the ages of 18-35 years and running at least 6 miles/week. In

17 addition, all subjects were required to abstain from any lower extremity resistance

18 training for at least 90 days prior to enrollment in the study. Each subject was required

19 to attest that they were free of any musculoskeletal condition or surgery that would

20 affect their running or squatting mechanics.

21

22 Baseline Screening

1 All potential subjects underwent a baseline screening to determine if they met the
2 inclusion criteria of abnormal hip mechanics during running. Thirty-five retroreflective
3 markers were attached to bilateral lower extremities to analyze running kinematics
4 (VICON, Oxford, UK). Anatomical marker placement was recorded via a marker
5 placement device (MPD) as shown in Figure 1. This device has been shown to increase
6 the day-to-day reliability of kinematic data.³⁰ Subjects wore standardized neutral running
7 shoes (Nike Pegasus, Beaverton, Ore). Following a 5 minute warm-up, five consecutive
8 strides were collected while subjects ran at 3.35 m/sec (8 min/mile pace) on an
9 instrumented treadmill (AMTI, Watertown, MA). Stance was determined utilizing a
10 threshold of 50 N. Hip joint centers were calculated via a spherical hip trial.¹⁷ Finally,
11 single leg squat data were collected. During the single leg squat, subjects were asked to
12 maintain single leg stance with the upper extremities held horizontally to assist with
13 balance. While in this position, subjects squatted to approximately 60 degrees knee
14 flexion maintaining a rhythm of a 1 Hz beat for the both the descending and ascending
15 phases. Data were collected while the subjects performed 5 consecutive squats. All
16 kinematic and kinetic data were sampled at 200 Hz and 1000 Hz, respectively.

17
18 Data were then analyzed. All kinematic and kinetic data were filtered with an 8- and 50-
19 Hz, low-pass, fourth-order, zero-lag Butterworth filter, respectively. 3-D joint and
20 segment angles were calculated with Visual 3-D software (C-Motion Bethesda, MD). All
21 joint angles were calculated in reference to the proximal segment. The pelvis segment
22 was referenced to the lab coordinate system. Standing calibration angles were not
23 subtracted from the motion trials. Customized software (LabVIEW 8.0, National

1 Instruments, Austin, TX) was used to determine peaks and calculate means for the
2 variables of interest. Kinematic variables of interest were peak hip adduction (HADD),
3 peak hip internal rotation (HIR), contralateral pelvic drop (CPD), and peak knee external
4 rotation (KER). For the single leg squat, kinematic variables were analyzed at 45° of
5 knee flexion. This point was chosen as it corresponded with the approximate angle of
6 peak knee flexion during running for this cohort.

7

8 Abnormal hip mechanics was operationally defined as HADD during running $\geq 20^\circ$. This
9 value represented 1 standard deviation above the mean of a normative, mixed gender,
10 database of healthy runners. Excessive peak HADD during running was chosen as the
11 kinematic inclusion criteria because it has commonly been associated with several
12 lower extremity running injuries.^{11,29,32,41} All subjects with peak HADD during running
13 $\geq 20^\circ$ (obtained from their baseline data collection) were then invited to participate in the
14 study. If both legs qualified, the leg with the greatest HADD was used. Subjects were
15 blinded to the kinematic qualification criteria for the extent of their enrollment in the
16 study. This was done to eliminate any potential conscious change in running gait by the
17 subject. All qualified subjects were assigned to either a strength training (STR) or
18 control (CON) group. Group assignment was block randomized to insure matching for
19 age and weekly running mileage.

20 Hip Dynamometry Procedures

21 During the next visit, peak **isometric** hip abduction (HABDS) and external rotation
22 (HERS) strength was measured via a handheld dynamometer (Nicholas, Lafayette, IN)
23 according to methods of previous investigations.^{11,42} HABDS was measured in sidelying

1 while HERS was measured in prone with the hip extended. This position was used over
2 a sitting position (hip flexed) so as to have the hip in a more similar position to that of
3 running. The dynamometer was placed 5 cm proximal to the lateral knee joint line for all
4 HABDS measurements. Similarly, the dynamometer was placed 5 cm proximal to the
5 medial malleolus for all HERS measurements. The dynamometer was stabilized against
6 the subjects with straps to eliminate the potential effect of examiner strength.² After a
7 practice session, 3 trials per muscle group were collected. Subjects contracted with
8 maximal effort for 3 seconds as peak torque production was recorded. Strength values
9 were normalized to body weight and lever arm length (%Bw*m). For HABS, the lever
10 arm was defined as the midpoint of the greater trochanter to the point of application of
11 the dynamometer. For HERS, the lever arm was defined as the midpoint of the lateral
12 femoral condyle to the point of application of the dynamometer on the tibia. The peak of
13 three maximal effort trials was used for analysis. **Intrarater reliability (ICC equation**
14 **3,K) for HABDS and HERS measures were 0.96 and 0.91, respectively.**

16 Strengthening Program

17 Subjects in the (STR) group completed a 6-week, 3x/week hip strengthening protocol
18 targeting the hip abductors and external rotators. Six weeks was chosen to be
19 consistent with clinical studies addressing PFPS.^{3,10,16,28} Additionally, it has been shown
20 that 80% of the strength changes noted within this time interval have been attributed to
21 muscular factors. In programs that are four weeks in length or less, strength gains have
22 been shown to be primarily due to changes in neuromuscular control.²⁵ Sessions were
23 conducted on non-consecutive days to allow for adequate recovery. Exercises were

1 progressed weekly under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist who is board
2 certified in orthopedics (co-author RW). Each week, the first exercise session was
3 conducted with the physical therapist. The remaining two sessions were completed
4 independently. Exercise compliance was monitored via an exercise log that each
5 subject maintained. Exercises were conducted in two sets of ten repetitions. Isometric
6 hold times, resistance levels, and degree of external support were designed to cause
7 significant fatigue by the end of the second set. This level of stimulus has been
8 suggested to cause an increase in muscle strength when applied 3x/week for at least
9 six weeks.¹⁴

10
11 Each week, subjects were issued two exercises (Table 1). Subjects completed the
12 strengthening exercises with both lower extremities. For the first two weeks, exercises
13 were performed in a non-weight bearing position (Figure 2). Emphasis was placed on
14 contracting the HABD and HER musculature, which was confirmed by palpation by the
15 physical therapist. For the final 4 weeks, exercises were progressed to weight bearing
16 positions (Figure 2 and 3). For all exercises utilizing resistance bands (Perform Better,
17 Cranston RI USA), a level of resistance was chosen for each subject that resulted in
18 failure by the end of the second set. During all weight bearing exercises, proper lower
19 extremity alignment was emphasized. These instructions included keeping the center of
20 the patella in line with both the anterior superior iliac spine proximally, and with the
21 second toe distally. Subjects were also instructed to keep their patella pointing “straight
22 ahead” to control HIR. Subjects received visual feedback from a mirror and verbal
23 feedback on alignment from a physical therapist. During the final three weeks, single leg

1 squat exercises were added (Figure 3). The difficulty of the squats was increased in
2 week five by decreasing external support (Figure 3b). For the final week, a resistance
3 band was added requiring the subjects to resist an external adduction force (Figure 3c).
4 Subjects in **the CON group did not receive any form of intervention for the six**
5 **week period**. All subjects, regardless of group assignment, were required to maintain
6 their weekly running mileage (+/- 10%) for the duration of their involvement in the study.
7 Weekly mileage was recorded via a mileage log.

8 9 Follow-Up Data Collection

10 Following either the six-week intervention or the control period, all subjects returned for
11 a follow-up strength and motion analysis session. This time, data were only collected on
12 the qualified limb. The MPD was used to assist with placement of the anatomical
13 markers using the positions recorded during the first visit. A previously traced standing
14 template was used to standardize foot position in the lab coordinate system for both the
15 standing calibration and the single leg squat trials. The collection and analysis of
16 running and squatting were repeated as described previously. Hip strength measures
17 were also repeated as described previously. Subjects were debriefed on all blinded
18 inclusion criteria at the conclusion of their involvement in this study.

19 Statistical Analysis

20 This study utilized a two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with a repeated measures
21 design (group(2) x time(2)). Strength measures and peak joint angles were the primary
22 variables of interest and were analyzed statistically. When an interaction was detected
23 ($p \leq 0.05$), simple main effects were examined. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test ($p \leq 0.05$)

1 was conducted on the difference scores to ensure normality for all variables with
2 significant main effects. For normally distributed variables with significant main effects,
3 post hoc dependent t-tests were conducted and effect sizes (Cohen's d) were
4 calculated. For any variables that were non-normally distributed, Wilcoxon-Signed Rank
5 test and the Glass's delta (effect size) was utilized for post hoc contrasts. An alpha level
6 of $p \leq 0.05$ was chosen for all comparisons. Group means and standard error of the
7 mean (SEM) were also calculated for all variables with normal distributions. Median and
8 standard deviation scores were calculated for the variables that were not normally
9 distributed. Data were analyzed using SPSS (Version 18, IBM, Somers, NY).

11 RESULTS

12 A total of **forty-three female runners (HADD during running=18.3 \pm 3.2)** were
13 screened to obtain the 20 subjects that met the excessive HADD criteria of 20°.
14 Independent t-tests failed to reveal any differences between the STR and CON groups
15 for age, weekly running mileage, and BMI at baseline Table 2. STR subjects completed
16 the intervention with a 100% compliance rate. Subjects in both groups reported full
17 compliance with running mileage and activity restrictions.

18
19 A significant interaction was noted for both strength measures ($F=34.58$, $p=0.000$).
20 Assessment of the simple main effects indicated that the STR group improved in their
21 HABDS and HERS by 41.6% ($\pm 21\%$) and 40.0% ($\pm 12.5\%$) respectively, while the CON
22 group strength remained unchanged (Table 2). Post hoc analyses of simple main
23 effects revealed that these increases were highly significant (and associated with large

1 effect sizes) for the strength trainers. The control subjects failed to show any changes in
2 HABDS and HERS strength. Thus, in the absence of a strengthening stimulus, these
3 strength measures for the control group were consistent over time.

4
5 All running data were normally distributed with the exception of HADD for the CON
6 group (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test: $D(10)=0.266$, $p<0.05$). Analysis of the running data
7 failed to reveal an interaction for any of the peak kinematic variables of interest. In
8 addition, no main effects across conditions for either HADD, HIR, or CPD were
9 detected. Due to the lack of interaction, simple main effects were not examined. (Table
10 4, Figure 4). There was a significant main effect for KER across conditions ($F=7.070$
11 $p=0.026$) indicating a difference between groups. However, no significant main effect for
12 KER across time was detected ($F=0.113$ $p=0.744$), suggesting no overall intervention
13 effect.

14
15 All SLS data were normally distributed with the exception of CPD for the STR group
16 (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test: $D(10)=0.289$, $p<0.05$). HADD demonstrated a significant
17 interaction ($F=5.565$ $p=0.043$) as did HIR ($F=5.931$ $p=0.038$), and CPD ($F=5.082$
18 $p=0.05$) (Table 4, Figure 5). Post hoc analysis of simple main effects revealed
19 significant reductions for all three of these variables for the strengthening group. Both
20 HADD and HIR reductions during the single leg squat were associated with large effect
21 sizes. However, no significant changes were detected for the control group. There was
22 a trend of a significant interaction for KER ($F=4.859$ $p=0.055$). Thus, we chose to

1 analyze simple main effects for KER. A trend towards a reduction in KER was detected
2 for the training group ($p=0.06$) but not for the controls ($p=0.14$).

3 **DISCUSSION**

4 This study sought to determine the effect of a hip strengthening program on running and
5 single leg squat mechanics in female runners who exhibit abnormal hip motion. Large
6 gains in HABDS and HERS were noted in the STR group. While the strengthening
7 program was effective at altering hip mechanics during a single leg squat, no changes
8 in running mechanics were noted. Thus, the results of this study only partially confirmed
9 our hypotheses.

10
11 For the STR group, the intervention was successful at increasing hip strength. The
12 exercises chosen, which utilized body weight and elasticized bands for resistance, have
13 been shown to invoke high activity from the hip abductors and external rotators.^{12,36}
14 Having abstained from any lower extremity strength training for at least 90 days prior to
15 entry into the study, the large gains in strength were not surprising. The strength
16 increases seen in this study (HABDS: 41.6%, HERS: 40.0% increase) were greater than
17 that noted by Snyder et al., (2008) (HABDS: 13%, HERS: 19.6% increase).³⁷ However,
18 these authors focused on healthy individuals with normal hip mechanics. In addition,
19 their subjects were not required to refrain from strength training prior to the study. As a
20 result, they may have been stronger at baseline, and their capacity for strength gains
21 may have been reduced. In contrast, Mascal et al (2003) reported greater than a two-
22 fold increase in strength (HABDS: 50%, HERS: 317%) compared with our findings.²⁴
23 However, these authors focused on a patient with pathology and associated excessive

1 hip adduction and hip internal rotation during functional movements. Additionally, the
2 strengthening program utilized by Mascal et al. was 14 weeks long. These factors may
3 have led to the greater strengthening seen in that study.

4
5 Despite the increases in hip strength, there were no significant reductions in peak
6 HADD, HIR, and CPD during running. This finding is in disagreement with our
7 hypothesis. With the exception of KER, the two groups were not statistically different at
8 baseline or post training. The group main effect of increased KER observed in the STR
9 subjects is likely related to the greater (though nonsignificant) HIR seen in this group
10 both at baseline and post training. The subjects in this present study had a large
11 capacity for changes in mechanics due to their abnormal hip mechanics. However,
12 despite the relatively large changes in strength, running mechanics were not
13 significantly altered. This suggests that strengthening alone may not be adequate to
14 alter the underlying abnormal movement patterns that may be associated with
15 pathology.

16
17 A component of neuromuscular retraining during running may be needed to actually
18 alter abnormal running mechanics. In fact, a recent study by Noehren et al (2010)
19 reported significant improvements in hip mechanics following a neuromuscular-only
20 intervention.³¹ In Noehren et al., 2010, female runners with PFPS and excessive hip
21 adduction underwent an 8-session gait retraining program. Subjects were provided
22 realtime kinematic feedback on HADD while they ran on an instrumented treadmill.
23 Subjects were then encouraged to match their HADD curve with a target curve. These

1 subjects had similar running mechanics as the runners in the current study. However,
2 the changes in running mechanics reported by Noehren et al. (2010) were large
3 (reduction of HADD by 5.0°, CPD by 3.0°, and HIR by 3.0°). More importantly, their
4 subjects experienced complete resolution of their pain. Perhaps most significantly, these
5 changes persisted at 1 month post-intervention.³¹ In contrast, the current study failed to
6 demonstrate any changes in running mechanics following strengthening. Thus,
7 neuromuscular interventions that are activity-specific may result in greater improvement
8 of aberrant mechanics than a strengthening-only intervention.

9
10 While no changes were noted in running mechanics, significant reductions were noted
11 during the single leg squat. As hypothesized, peak HADD, HIR, and CPD during the
12 single leg squat were reduced. In fact, the contralateral pelvis actually became more
13 elevated (-0.8° to -4.6°) following the intervention, hence the negative value. The
14 reductions in peak motions of the hip during the single leg squat were of similar
15 magnitude to those seen in Mascal et al. (2003) during a stepdown maneuver.²⁴ While
16 their intervention did involve strengthening, a large component of the program involved
17 neuromuscular training specific to the single leg stance maneuvers. As a result, the
18 authors acknowledged the potential influence of neuromuscular training on their
19 results.²⁴ **This may explain the improvement in mechanics seen in the single leg**
20 **squat of the current study as it, too, had a large component of single leg stance**
21 **activities. Neuromuscular training specific to the single leg squat consisted of**
22 **mirror and verbal feedback on technique. Thus, these changes in single leg squat**
23 **mechanics may reflect the acquisition of a new movement skill, rather than due to**

1 **the changes in isometric muscular strength noted.** Indeed, the changes in hip
2 mechanics during the SLS were on the same magnitude as those reported by Noehren
3 et al., 2010.³¹ In terms of the knee, KER was reduced, but as with running, not
4 significantly ($p=0.06$). However, the reduction was twice that of running and the effect
5 size was larger (0.61 vs. 0.45), again potentially related to the specificity of training for
6 single leg squatting.

7
8 In future studies, other variables of strength, such as muscular endurance, should be
9 examined. It has been shown that muscular endurance of hip musculature is a
10 significant predictor of hip mechanics during running in females with PFPS.³⁹ In
11 addition, muscular fatigue as a result of prolonged running may also play a significant
12 role in abnormal hip mechanics in females with PFPS.¹¹ Secondly, isometric strength
13 testing was utilized in order to translate the findings more readily to the clinical setting.
14 Isokinetic testing may have higher validity for dynamic movements such as running.⁵
15 Further study of improving muscular endurance, perhaps evaluated with isokinetic
16 testing, on abnormal hip mechanics during running is needed. **In addition, results of**
17 **this study suggest that future investigations should include a comparison of**
18 **neuromuscular only versus strengthening only interventions.** This should help to
19 further clarify the underlying mechanism of changes in single leg squat mechanics.

20
21 Proximal hip strengthening programs, such as the one described in this study, are often
22 prescribed for patients with PFPS. However, high rates of recurrence of symptoms have
23 been reported in conventional programs for the treatment of PFPS.^{1,21} **This may be due**

1 to a lack of alterations in faulty movement patterns. If the underlying mechanics of
2 PFPS are not addressed, then the risk for recurrence is likely to be increased.
3 Individuals with recurring PFPS may be at greater risk for developing patellofemoral
4 osteoarthritis later in life.⁴³ Neuromuscular interventions, such as gait retraining, may
5 have the greatest potential to directly mitigate any faulty mechanics associated with the
6 injury. However, deficits in hip strength *and* abnormal hip mechanics have previously
7 been noted in females with PFPS. Therefore, clinicians should consider both
8 strengthening and neuromuscular interventions to address both impairments to reduce
9 the risk of recurrence or the development of PFPS.

11 Conclusion

12 The data presented in this study suggest that strengthening alone may be insufficient to
13 alter abnormal movement patterns of the lower extremities during running. Despite large
14 and significant gains in the strength of the hip abductors and hip external rotators, no
15 changes were seen in abnormal hip mechanics during running. In contrast, reductions in
16 hip abduction, hip external rotation, and contralateral pelvic drop were seen during
17 single leg squatting. While these kinematic changes may have been due to the gains in
18 hip strength, they may have resulted from the neuromuscular training that was specific
19 to single leg squatting. **These results suggest that strengthening alone may not be
20 sufficient to elicit changes in abnormal hip mechanics during running.**

21 Key Points

22 Findings

1 Hip strengthening alone may not be sufficient to change abnormal hip mechanics during
2 running. Activity-specific neuromuscular training may be necessary to alter these
3 aberrant motions.

4 Implication

5 Clinicians should incorporate neuromuscular training into therapeutic and intervention
6 programs if normalization of abnormal running patterns is desired.

7 Caution

8 These results are only directly applicable to individuals who are pain-free females with
9 abnormal hip mechanics.

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

- 1 1. Blond L, Hansen L. Patellofemoral pain syndrome in athletes: a 5.7 year
2 retrospective follow-up study of 250 athletes. *Acta Orthop Belg.* 1997; 64:393-
3 400.
- 4 2. Bohannon RW. Intertester reliability of hand-held dynamometry: a concise
5 summary of published research. *Percept. Mot. Skills.* 1999;88:899-902.
- 6 3. Boling MC, Bolgla LA, Mattacola CG, Uhl TL, Hosey RG. Outcomes of a weight-
7 bearing rehabilitation program for patients diagnosed with patellofemoral pain
8 syndrome. *Arch Phys med Rehabil* 2006; 87:1428-1435.
- 9 4. Boling MC, Padua DA, Marshall SW, Guskiewicz K, Pyne S, Beutler A. A
10 prospective investigation of biomechanical risk factors for patellofemoral pain
11 syndrome: The joint undertaking to monitor and prevent ACL injury (JUMP-ACL)
12 cohort. *Am. J. Sp. Med.* 2009;37(11);2108-2116.
- 13 5. Boling MC, Padua DA, Creighton RA. Concentric and eccentric torque of the hip
14 musculature in individuals with and without patellofemoral pain. *J. Athl Tr.*
15 2009;44(1):7-13.
- 16 6. Bolgla LA, Malone TR, Umberger BR, Uhl TL. Hip strength and hip and knee
17 kinematics during stair descent in females with and without patellofemoral pain
18 syndrome. *J. Orthop Sports Phys Ther.* 2008; 38(1):12-18.
- 19 7. Chen YJ, Scher I, Powers CM. Quantification of patellofemoral joint reaction
20 forces during functional tasks: a subject specific, three dimensional model. *J.*
21 *Appl Biomch.* 2010 in press
- 22 8. Cichanowski HR, Schmitt JS, Johnson J, Niemuth PE. Hip strength in collegiate
23 female athletes with patellofemoral pain. *Med. Sci. Sports Exerc.* 2007;39(8):
24 1227-1232.
- 25 9. Cohen J. 1992. A power primer. *Psych. Bull.* 1992;112:155-159.
- 26 10. Crossley K, Bennell K, Green S, et al. Physical therapy for patellofemoral pain -
27 A randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial. *Am J Sports Med.* 2002;
28 6: 857-865.
- 29 11. Dierks TA, Manal KT, Hamill J, Davis IS. Proximal and distal influences on hip
30 and knee kinematics in runners with patellofemoral pain during and prolonged
31 run. *J. Orthop Sports Phys Ther.* 2008; 38(8):448-456.
- 32 12. DiStefano LJ, Blackburn JT, Marshall SW, Padua DA. Gluteal muscle activation
33 during common therapeutic exercises. *J Orthop Sports Phys Ther.* 2009;39(7)
34 532-540.
- 35 13. Ferber R, McClay-Davis I, Williams D, Laughton C. A comparison of within- and
36 between-day reliability of discrete 3D lower extremity variables in runners. *J*
37 *Orthop Res.* 2002; 20, 1139-1145.
- 38 14. Franklin BA, ed. *ACSM's guidelines for exercise testing and prescription. Sixth*
39 *edition.* Lippincott Williams and Wilkins. 2000: 137-164.
- 40 15. Fukuda TY, Rossetto FM, Magalhaes E, Bryk FF, Lucareli PR, De Almeida
41 Carvalho NA. Short-term effects of hip abductors and lateral rotator
42 strengthening in females with patellofemoral pain syndrome: a randomized
43 controlled clinical trial. *J Orthop Sports Phys Ther.* 2010;40(11) 736-742.
- 44 16. Herrington L, Al-Sherhi A. A controlled trial of weight-bearing versus non-weight-
45 bearing exercises for patellofemoral pain. *J Orthop Sports Phys Ther.* 2007;
46 37(4): 155-160.

- 1 17. Hicks J, Richards J. Clinical applicability of using spherical fitting to find hip joint
2 centers. *Gait & Posture*. 2005;22:138-145.
- 3 18. Huberti HH, Hayes WC. Patellofemoral Contact Pressures- The influence of Q-
4 angle and tendofemoralcontact. *J. of Bone and Joint Surg. Am.* 1984;
5 66A(5):715-24.
- 6 19. Ireland ML, Davis IS, Ballantyne BT, Willson JD. Hip strength in females with and
7 without patellofemoral pain. *J Orthop Sports Phys Ther.* 2007; 33(11):671-676.
- 8 20. Kadaba MP, Ramakrshnan HK, Wooten ME, Gainey J, Gorton G, Cochran GV
9 (1989) Repeatability of kinematic, kinetic, and electromyographic data in normal
10 adult gait. *J. Orthop. Res.* 1989;7: 849-860.
- 11 21. Kannuas P, Natri, A, Paakkala T, Harvinen M. An outcome study fo chronic
12 patellofemoral pain syndrome. Seven year follow-up of patients in a randomized
13 controlled trial. *J. Bone Joint Surg.* 1999;81:355-363.
- 14 22. Labella CR, Huxford MR, Smith TL, Cartland J. Preseason neuromuscular
15 exercise program reduces sports-related knee pain in female adolescent
16 athletes. *Clin. Pediatr.* 2009;48(3):327-330.
- 17 23. Lee TQ, Yang BY, Sandusky MD, McMahan PJ. The effects of tibial rotation
18 on the patellofemoral joint: assessment of the changes in in situ strain in the
19 peripatellar retinaculum and the patellofemoral contact pressures and areas. *J.*
20 *Rehabil. Res. Dev.* 2001;38: 463-469.
- 21 24. Mascal CL, Landel R, Powers C. Management of patellofemoral pain targeting
22 hip, pelvis, and trunk muscle function: 2 case reports. *J Orthop Sports Phys*
23 *Ther.* 2003;33 (11): 647-660.
- 24 25. Moritani T, Devries HA. Neural factors versus hypertrophy in the time course
25 of muscle strength gain. *Amer. J. of Phys. Med. & Rehab.* 1979;58(3):115-130.
- 26 26. Myer GD, Chu DA, Brent JE, Hewett TE. Trunk and hip control neuromuscular
27 training for the prevention of knee joint injury. *Clin Sports Med.* 2008
28 27(3):425-+.
- 29 27. Myer GD, Ford KR, Barber Foss KD, Goodman A, Ceasar A, Rauh MJ, Divine
30 JG, Hewett TW. The incidence and potential pathomechanics of patellofemoral
31 pain in female athletes. *Clin. Biomech.* 2010;25(7):700-707.
- 32 28. Nakagawa TH, Muniz TB, Baldon RM, maciel CD, Reiff RB, Serrao FV. The
33 effect of additional strengthening of hip abductor and lateral rotator muscles in
34 patellofemoral pain syndrome: a randomized controlled pilot study. *Clinical*
35 *Rehabilitation.* 2008;22:1051-1060.
- 36 29. Noehren B, Davis I, Hamill J. ASB Clinical Biomechanics Award Winner 2006:
37 Prospective study of the biomechanical factors associated with iliotibial band
38 syndrome. *Clin. Biomech.* 2007;22(9). 951-956.
- 39 30. Noehren B, Manal K, Davis I. Improving between-day kinematic reliability using a
40 marker placement device. *J. Orthop. Research.* 2010;28(11): 1405-1410.
- 41 31. Noehren B, Scholz J, Davis I. The effect of gait retraining on hip kinematics, pain,
42 and function in subjects with patellofemoral pain syndrome. *Br. J. Sports Med.* In
43 press.
- 44 32. Pohl MB, Mullineaux DR, Milner CE, Hamill J, Davis IS. Biomechanical predictors
45 of retrospective tibial stress fractures in runners. *J. Biomech.* 2008;41(6) 1160-
46 1165.

- 1 33. Powers CM. The influence of altered lower-extremity kinematics on
2 patellofemoral joint dysfunction: a theoretical perspective. *J Orthop Sports Phys*
3 *Ther.* 2003;33(11):639-646.
- 4 34. Powers CM, Ward Sr, Guillet M, Shellock FG, Fredericson M. Patellofemoral
5 kinematics during weight-bearing and non-weight bearing knee extension in
6 persons with lateral subluxation fo the patella: a preliminary study. *J Orthop*
7 *Sports Phys. Ther.* 2003; 33(11):677-685.
- 8 35. Powers CM. The influence of abnormal hip mechanics on knee injury: a
9 biomechanical perspective. *J Orthop Sports Phys Ther.* 2010; 40(2):42-51
- 10 36. Selkowitz DM, Beneck GJ, Powers CM. Which exercises target the gluteal
11 muscles while limiting activation of the tensor fascia lata? EMG assessment
12 using fine wire electrodes. Proceedings of the APTA Combined Sections Meeting
13 2009. Las Vegas, NV. *J. Orthop Sports Phys Ther.* 2009;40(1) A15.
- 14 37. Snyder KR, Earl JE, O'Connor KM, Ebersole KT. Resistance training is
15 accompanied by increases in hip strength and changes in lower extremity
16 biomechanics during running. *Clin. Biomech.* 2009;24(1):26-34.
- 17 38. Souza, RB, Powers CM. Differences in hip kinematics, muscle strength, and
18 muscle activation between subjects with and without patellofemoral pain. *J.*
19 *Orthop. Sp. Phys. Ther.* 2009;39(1):12-19.
- 20 39. Souza RB, Powers CM. Predictors of hip internal rotation during running: an
21 evaluation of hip strength and femoral structure in women with and without
22 patellofemoral pain. *Am. J. Sport. Med.* 2009;37(3):579-587.
- 23 40. Souza RB, Draper CE, Fredericson M, Powers CM, Femur rotation and
24 patellofemoral joint kinematics: a weight-bearing magnetic resonance imaging
25 analysis. *J. Orthop Sports Phys Ther.* 2009;40(5):277-285.
- 26 41. Willson JD, Davis IS. Lower extremity mechanics of females with and without
27 patellofemoral pain across activities with progressively greater task demands.
28 *Clin Biomech.* 2008;23(2):203-211.
- 29 42. Willson JD, Ireland ML, Davis I. Core strength and lower extremity alignment
30 during single leg squats. *Med. Sci. Sports Exerc.* 2006;38(5):945-952. 2006.
- 31 43. Utting MR, Davies G, Newman JH. Is anterior knee pain a predisposing factor to
32 patellofemoral osteoarthritis? *Knee.* 2005;12(5):362-65.
- 33
34

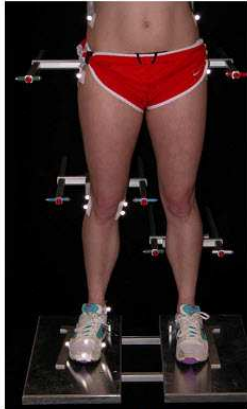


FIGURE 1: Anatomical marker placement was recorded during the baseline visit using the Marker Placement Device (MPD).³⁰ At the final data collection, anatomical markers were mounted according to the baseline coordinates.

79x39mm (300 x 300 DPI)

View Copy

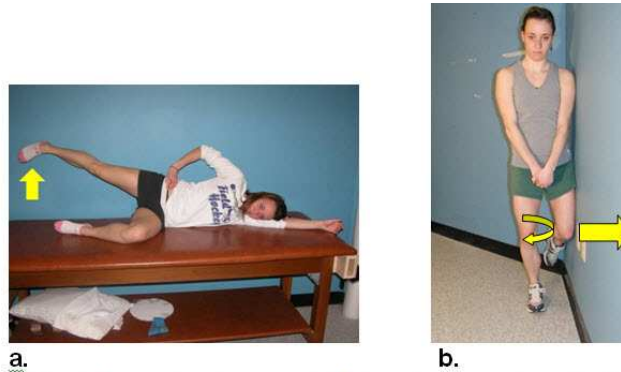


FIGURE 2. a) Example of non-weight bearing exercise. During this straight leg raise exercise, a primary focus was on proper activation of the hip abductor (HABD) musculature by applying slight extension force against the wall. b) Example of weight-bearing exercise. Isometric HABD and HER at wall: While in contralateral pelvic elevation, subjects performed isometric HABD against the wall with the non-weight bearing leg. Simultaneously, the stance leg was held in HER.

78x43mm (300 x 300 DPI)

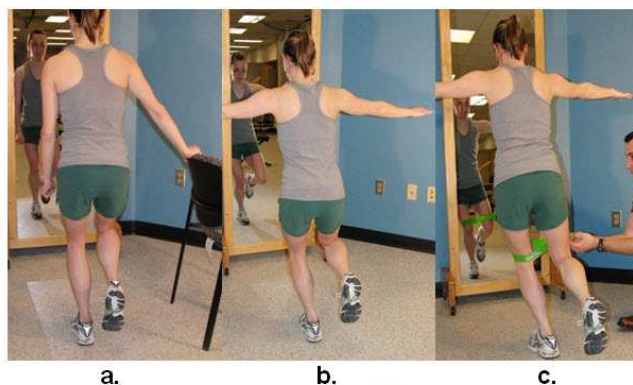


FIGURE 3: Single leg squat progression. Subjects were instructed to perform a neutral lower extremity alignment during all single leg squat exercises. a) Single leg squat with one hand support, b) Single leg squat without support, c) Single leg squat with theraband-applied resistance in the direction of adduction.

79x39mm (300 x 300 DPI)

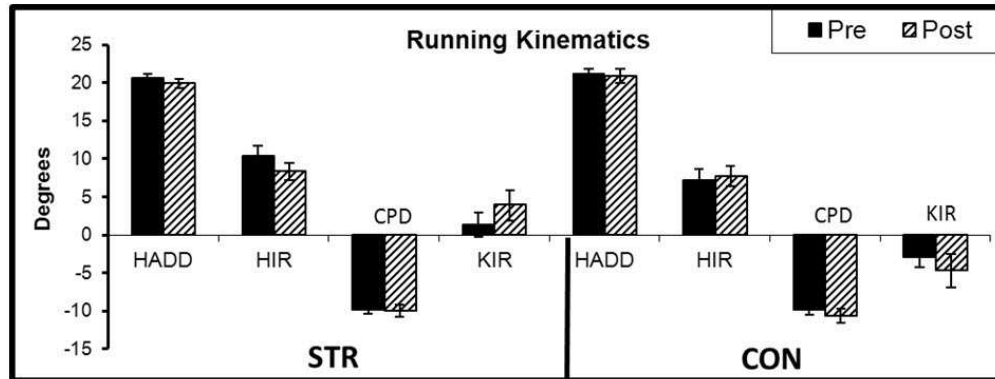


FIGURE 4: Comparison of running kinematics pre and post training. CPD is negative whereas contralateral pelvic elevation is positive. KIR is positive whereas knee external rotation is negative. Note the lack of differences in both the STR and CON groups at the end of the six-week intervention.

80x42mm (300 x 300 DPI)

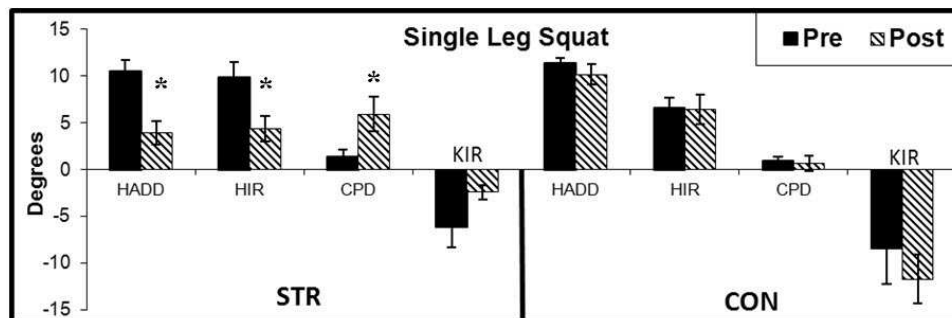


FIGURE 5: Comparison of single leg squat kinematics pre and post training. CPD is negative whereas contralateral pelvic elevation is positive. KIR is positive whereas knee external rotation is negative. Note that the STR group demonstrated a significant decrease in HADD and HIR while increasing CPD. * indicates $p \leq 0.05$.

80x37mm (300 x 300 DPI)

TABLE 1: Training program utilized for the intervention focusing on hip abduction (HABD) and hip external rotation (HER).

Week of Study	Exercise 1: (no. of sets x no. of reps, length of hold)	Exercise 2: (no. of sets x no. of reps, length of hold)
Week 1	Sidelying HER/ Hip Extension Exercise: 2x10, 5 seconds hold	HABD Straight Leg Raise: 2x10, 5 seconds hold
Week 2	Resistance Band Clam Shell (HER): 2 sets of 10 reps, no hold	HABD Straight Leg Raise: 2x10, 10 seconds hold
Week 3	Bilateral Squat with Resistance Band targeting HER: 2 sets of 10 reps, 5 second hold	Contralateral Pelvic Hike (HABD) with Ball: 2x10 reps, 5 seconds hold
Week 4	Theraband-resisted side stepping (HABD):2 sets of 10 reps, no hold	SLS with Stabilization with Hand: 2x10 reps, no hold
Week 5	Isometric HABD and HER at wall: 2x10, 5 seconds	SLS w/o Stabilization: 2x10 reps, no hold
Week 6	Isometric HABD and HER at wall: 2x10, 10 seconds	SLS w/o Stabilization, with Resistance Band Targeting HABD: 2x10 reps, no hold

81x53mm (300 x 300 DPI)

TABLE 2: Subject Demographics: Mean (SEM).

	<u>STR</u>	<u>CON</u>
AGE (years)	22.7 (1.11)	21.2 (0.70)
BMI (kg/m²)	22.3 (0.73)	22.19 (0.92)
Weekly Running Mileage (mi/wk)	13.5 (1.67)	14.0 (2.32)

STR=Strength trainers, CON=Controls

62x15mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Review Copy

TABLE 3: Hip strength measures at baseline and post: Mean (sd).
 ** indicates $p \leq 0.05$

	<u>Pre</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>p</u>	<u>d</u>
<u>STR</u>				
HABDS (%BW*m)	7.2 (1.2)	10.0 (1.1)	0.0006**	1.39
HERS (%BW*m)	2.9 (0.4)	3.6 (0.4)	0.0003**	0.62
<u>CON</u>				
HABDS (%BW*m)	9.2 (0.03)	9.3 (0.01)	0.85	0.06
HERS (%BW*m)	3.4(0.009)	3.4 (0.003)	0.33	0.06

HABDS= Hip abduction strength. HERS= Hip external rotation strength.
 STR=Strength trainers, CON=Controls.

65x28mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Review Copy